

Message Text

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APPROVED BY: EA/VN:RHWENZEL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 072156

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 072156 ACTION USUN 31 MAR

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 072156

E.O. 11652:GDS

SREF, PORG, UN, VS VN

TAGS: SREF, PORG, UN, VS VN

SUBJECT:LETTER TO UNSYG CONCERNING VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

FOR SCALI FROM SECRETARY

YOU ARE INSTRUCTED TO CONVEY THE FOLLOWING TEXT OF LETTER
TO UNSYG ASAP:

BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. SECRETARY GENERAL:

I AM INFORMED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF
VIET-NAM HAS DIRECTED AN URGENT REQUEST TO YOU TO AP-
PEAL TO ALL CONCERNED PARTIES TO ENSURE THE SAFE REMOVAL OF
THE REFUGEES NOW IN THE COASTAL CITIES OF DANANG, TUY HOA
AND NHA TRANG AND TO APPEAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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COMMUNITY TO EXTEND ASSISTANCE TO THEM.

HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE--MOST OF THEM WOMEN, CHILD-
REN AND ELDERLY PERSONS--HAVE FLED TO THESE CITIES IN HOPES
OF BEING EVACUATED TO RESETTLEMENT SITES TO THE SOUTH.THEY

HAVE BECOME DESPERATE. THERE ARE REPORTS OF PANIC AMONG
THOSE UNABLE TO OBTAIN TRANSPORTATIONFROMDANANG AND
OTHER CITIES. THE SITUATION DEMANDS THAT EVERYTHING
POSSIBLE BE DONE TO HELP THEM.FOR ITS PART, THE
UNITED STATES IS RESPONDING TO THE APPEAL OF THE GOVERN-

MENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM TO PROVIDE AIR AND SEA
TRANSPORT TO MOVE THE REFUGEES AND OTHER ASSISTANCE TO
RELIEVE THEIR SUFFERING. OTHER NATIONS ARE PROVIDING
ASSISTANCE AS WELL.

THE PLIGHT OF THESE PEOPLE HAS BECOME PARTICULARLY
DESPERATE AS FIGHTING HAS COME TO THECITIES WHERE THEY
HAVE SOUGHT TEMPORARY REFUGE. THE SITUATION AT DANANG
IS CRITICAL. ADVANCING MILITARY FORCES, WHICH ARE
SEEKING TO BLOCK THEIR ESCAPE, HAVE ENTEREDCITY;
ARTILLERY AND ROCKETS NOW MAKE THEAPPROACH OF EVACUATION
AIRCRAFT AND SHIPS HAZARDOUS IN THE EXTREME, IF NOT
IMPOSSIBLE.

AS YOU MOVE TO TAKE SUCH MEASURES AS YOU CAN TO AMELIORATE

THIS HUMAN TRADEGY, I TRUST THAT YOU WILL APPEAL TO
THE MEMBERS OF THE UNTIED NATIONS AND ITSSPECIALIZED
AGENCIES TO ASSIST THESE REFUGEES, ON AN URGENT BASIS.
I ASK THAT YOU MAKE PUBLIC YOUR CONCERN AND THAT YOU CALL
UPON THE PARTIES INVOLVED NOT TO INTERFERE WITH THE
INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN EFFORT TO CARE FOR THESE MASSES
OF REFUGEES AND TO ASSISTTHEM IN REACHING A
DESTINATION OF THEIR OWN CHOOSING.

BEST REGARDS,

HENRY A. KISSINGER

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END TEXT. KISSINGER UNQUOTE

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Message Attributes

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